

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ZA RH

SUBJ: DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL HOLDS LITTLE HOPE FOR OWEN MISSION

1. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY THE DAILY MAIL EDITOR MIJONI IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH STATE HOUSE AND PUBLISHED ON THE MORNING OF OWEN'S ARRIVAL IS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE CURRENT ZAMBIA/PATRIOTIC FRONT PUBLIC POSITION ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. END LOU BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

2. QUOTE: JUDGING FROM THE CAUTIOUS MANNER REBEL LEADER IAN SMITH AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER MR. JOHN VORSTER HAVE RECEIVED THE VISIT OF DR. DAVID OWEN, IT IS CLEAR THAT GETTING THINGS GOING WILL TAKE A VERY LONG TIME.

PERHAPS THIS IS VERY MUCH IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS OF BOTH MR. VORSTER AND IAN SMITH, THE TWO GENTLEMEN WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST FROM PROLONGED POLITICAL SHADOW BOXING UNDER THE GUISE OF TALKS.

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WHAT HAS BEEN CLEAR FROM THE TIME SIR HAROLD WILSON TOOK CHARGE OF THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA IS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT KNOWS EVERYTHING WHICH HAS TO BE KNOWN ABOUT THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.

WHAT IS ALSO CLEAR AND DESIRABLE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE WASTING THE PRECIOUS TIME OF EVERYBODY BY SOUNDING THE VIEWS OF PEOPLE WHOSE POSITION HER

MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ALREADY KNOWS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE COMING WITH THE MESSAGE THAT THE ONLY OBSTACLE WHICH HAS ALL ALONG STOOD IN THE WAY OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA HAS BEEN REMOVED.

AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THAT OBSTACLE IS SMITH. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST SPEND THEIR TIME REMOVING SMITH INSTEAD OF COMING TO AFRICANS TELLING THEM HOW MUCH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

THEY HAVE WANTED TO DO THAT FOR OVER TEN YEARS NOW. FURTHER TALK OF THEIR NOBLE INTENTIONS HARDLY IMPRESSES ANYBODY. WHILE DR. OWEN IS IN AFRICA, IT IS TIME THAT THE AFRICAN POSITION IS MADE VERY CLEAR.

AND THAT IS THAT AS MATTERS NOW STAND, ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MATTER AND WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM ARE CONVINCED THAT THE SOLUTION WILL ONLY COME THROUGH WAR. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO FIGHTING. NOT OUT OF DESIRE TO SEE PEOPLE DIE. BUT BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WHICH CAN LEAD TO GENUINE INDEPENDENCE IN RHODESIA.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WHICH CAN ASSURE THE AFRICAN PEOPLE THAT WHEN THEY WIN, THEY WILL HAVE TAKEN OVER A COUNTRY WHERE THEY WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY.

THE EVENTS OF THE PAST YEARS HAVE OPENED THE EYES OF THE AFRICANS THAT PUTTING TOO MUCH FAITH IN THE WEST CAN LEAD TO PROBLEMS AND EVEN DISASTER.

WE HAVE THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM TODAY BECAUSE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT PREPARE FOR A UNITED SOUTH AFRICA WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY LEFT.

WE HAVE THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY IN FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIES SIMPLY BECAUSE THE FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIES MADE SURE THAT WHEN THEY LEFT, THE PEOPLE OF THESE COUNTRIES WOULD SPEND MORE TIME FIGHTING OFF IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITORS RATHER THAN DEVELOPING THEIR COUNTRIES AND SPENDING MONEY ON THE WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE.

THE FACT THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS BECOME TODAY AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYGROUND WITH FOREIGN NATIONS VYING WHO GOES IN FIRST FOR THE KILL IS PRIMARILY ALL THE FAULT OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.

AND IF THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA IS SOLVED IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF THE WEST, WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF DR. OWEN'S SOLUTION DOES NOT MEAN HANDING OVER POWER TO A STOOGES WHO WILL LATER BE OPPOSED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE AND CREATE BIGGER PROBLEMS FOR US ALL.

WE MUST NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE SOLUTION DR. OWEN AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ARE WORKING OUT DOES NOT MEAN HANDLING SMITH'S COLONIAL ARMY TO A STOOGES WHO WILL BE FOUGHT BY HIS OWN PEOPLE.

THERE MUST BE AN AFRICAN ANSWER TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.
THAT AFRICAN ANSWER WILL PRIMARILY BE FOUND IN GETTING THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT ARMY TO PROTECT THE INDEPENDENCE THEY HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING FOR AND CERTAINLY NOT IN ALLOWING A COLONIAL ARMY
TO PROTECT THOSE THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING.

WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT DESPITE THE FACT THAT WESTERN
POWERS HAVE LIVED LONG IN AFRICA, THEY HAVE READ AFRICA WRONG.

IT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE READ AFRICA WRONG THAT WE HAVE THE
PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND A DISTURBING
PROCESS OF DESTABILISATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

WE MAY HAVE BEEN CAUGHT NAPPING IN THE PAST. BUT AFRICAN COUNTRIES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE DETERMINED THAT OTHER PEOPLE'S BLUNDERS
WILL HAVE TO BE COSTLY NOT ONLY TO THE AFRICANS BUT ALSO TO
THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED IN THEIR CREATION.

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